

Appl. No. 10/688,118
Atty. Docket No. 9066M2
Amdt. dated January 9, 2007
Reply to Office Action mailed October 25, 2006
Customer No. 27752

REMARKS

Claim Status

Claims 1-20 are currently under consideration. No additional claims fee is believed to be due.

Claim 15 has been amended to recite that the method of providing a soft tissue paper product is applied to the tissue paper product while the tissue paper is semi-dry. Support for this amendment is found at p. 19, lines 25-27 and p. 20, lines 27-28 of the Specification.

Claims 16-20 have been amended to recite the method of providing a soft tissue paper product. Support for this amendment is found at p. 20, lines 27-28 of the Specification.

Claim 21 has been added to recite that the semi-dry tissue paper is selected from the group consisting of: tissue paper on the Fourdrinier cloth, drying fabric, Yankee dryer, and combinations thereof. Support for this amendment is found at p. 19, lines 25-27 of the Specification.

It is believed that these changes do not involve any introduction of new matter. Consequently, entry of these changes is believed to be in order and is respectfully requested.

Rejection Under 35 USC §103(a) Over WO 02/48458 in View of U.S. 3,624,019

Claims 15-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Barnholtz et al (WO 02/48458 – hereinafter “Barnholtz”) in view of Anderson (U.S. 3,624,019 – hereinafter “Anderson”). The Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection on the ground that Barnholtz in view of Anderson does not provide one of ordinary skill in the art with any teaching, suggestion, or motivation to arrive at the claimed limitations, thus failing to make the *prima facie* case of obviousness. MPEP §2142, §2143; In re Vaeck, 947 F.2d 488, 20 USPQ2d 1438 (Fed. Cir. 1991).

Claim 15 requires, *inter alia*, that the softening composition is applied to the tissue paper product while the tissue paper is semi-dry. Barnholtz merely discloses application of a softening composition after the tissue web has been dried and creped

Page 4 of 5

Appl. No. 10/688,118
Atty. Docket No. 9066M2
Amdt. dated January 9, 2007
Reply to Office Action mailed October 25, 2006
Customer No. 27752

(Barnholtz, p. 36, lines 10-12) and after the tissue paper web has passed over the Yankee dryer (Barnholtz, p. 37, lines 23-24). Barnholtz provides no teaching, suggestion, or motivation for applying a softening composition to a semi-dry tissue web as is claimed. Further, Anderson fails to remedy this deficiency as Anderson merely discloses inversion of an oil-in-water emulsion into water.

The Applicants respectfully submit that the claims, as amended, are non-obvious under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Barnholtz in view of Anderson because there is no teaching, suggestion, or motivation of application of a softening composition to a semi-dry tissue paper as is claimed by the Applicants.

Conclusion

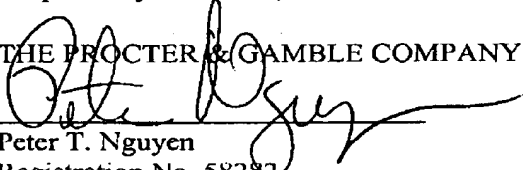
In light of the above remarks, it is requested that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). Early and favorable action in the case are respectfully requested.

This response represents an earnest effort to place the application in proper form and to distinguish the invention as now claimed from the applied references. In view of the foregoing, reconsideration of this application, entry of the amendments presented herein, and allowance of Claims 15-20 is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

THE PROCTER & GAMBLE COMPANY

By


Peter T. Nguyen
Registration No. 58282
(513) 634-4268

January 9, 2007
Customer No. 27752